

A<sup>2</sup> 3. (Once Amended) The modified atmosphere package of claim 2, wherein said [outer] second package has a rate of oxygen permeability less than about 0.1 cubic centimeters per 100 square inches in 24 hours.

A<sup>3</sup> 5. (Once Amended) The modified atmosphere package of claim 4, wherein said oxygen scavenger is constructed to reduce a level of said residual oxygen to less than about 0.05 percent within 90 minutes after flushing and sealing said [outer] second package.

A<sup>4</sup> 6. (Once Amended) The modified atmosphere package of claim 1, wherein said [inner] first package is substantially free of oxygen therein in response to said [inner] first package being flushed with said one or more gases.

A<sup>5</sup> 7. (Once Amended) The modified atmosphere package of claim 1, wherein said oxygen scavenger includes an oxygen-absorbing packet loosely disposed between said [inner and outer] first and second packages.

A<sup>6</sup> 8. (Once Amended) The modified atmosphere package of claim 1, wherein said oxygen scavenger includes an oxygen-absorbing material integrated into the material used to form said [outer] second package.

9. (Once Amended) A modified atmosphere package, comprising:

C [inner] first package means for <sup>substantially, totally, enclosing</sup> ~~holding~~ a retail cut of raw meat, said [inner] first package means including a non-barrier portion substantially permeable to oxygen;

[outer] second package means for covering [containing] said [inner] first package means, said [outer] second package means being substantially impermeable to oxygen, said [outer] second package means creating a pocket between said first package means and said second package means, said pocket being substantially free of oxygen [therein] <sup>safety</sup> in response to being flushed with one or more gases creating a modified atmosphere within said pocket [outer package means];

oxygen scavenging means for scavenging any residual oxygen within said pocket [outer package means], said oxygen scavenging means being positioned external to said first package means; and

means for activating said oxygen scavenging means.

10. (Once Amended) A method of manufacturing a modified atmosphere package, said method comprising the steps of:

supplying [an inner] a first package including a non-barrier portion substantially permeable to oxygen;

placing a retail cut of raw meat within said [inner] first package;

sealing said [inner] first package;

supplying [an outer] a second package substantially impermeable to oxygen;

[inserting] covering said [inner] first package [into] with said [outer] second package without sealing said [outer] second package so as to create a pocket between said first package and said second package;

substantially removing oxygen from said [outer package] pocket solely by flushing said [outer package] pocket with one or more gases;

supplying an oxygen scavenger positioned external to said first package to absorb residual oxygen within the pocket [outer package];

activating said oxygen scavenger with an oxygen scavenger accelerator; and

sealing said [outer] second package.

A<sup>6</sup> end.  
A<sup>7</sup>  
12. (Once Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said [outer] second package has a rate of oxygen permeability less than about 0.1 cubic centimeters per 100 square inches in 24 hours.

A<sup>8</sup>  
14. (Once Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said oxygen scavenger is constructed to reduce a level of said residual oxygen to less than about 0.05 percent within 90 minutes after flushing said pocket and sealing said [outer] second package.